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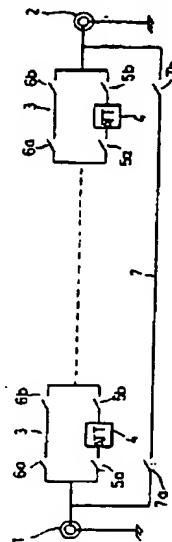
**(54) PROGRAMMABLE ATTENUATOR**

**(57) Abstract:**

**PURPOSE:** To realize nearly accurately attenuation of 0dB by providing through- bypass contacts whose number is less than the total number of through-contacts and short-circuiting input/output terminals.

**CONSTITUTION:** The through-bypass circuit 7 is formed between the input and output terminal 1, 2, and through-bypass contacts 7a, 7b whose number is less than the total number (e.g., eight) of through-contacts 6a, 6b are provided in the circuit 7. The attenuation of 0dB is attained by energizing a relay coil in the drive circuit (not shown in figure) so as to turn on both the through- bypass contacts 7a, 7b and to turn off all the main contacts 5a, 5b and the through-contacts 6a, 6b in an attenuator unit 3. Thus, the loss in the bypass circuit 7 is reduced remarkably and the attenuation nearly equal to 0dB is attained.

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